

Reflections from Jim's Bridge to a Brighter Future



James F. Mikulski Memorial Group

Volume 10 Issue 2

Fundraiser Features Scholarship Recipient

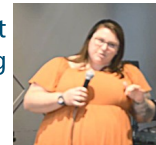
What a great time we had at the Jim's Bridge 2024 Fundraiser on Sunday Sept 8, 2024. Over ninety people joined us on a beautiful late summer afternoon for delicious food, fun games and raffles, nice music and lots of great comradery.

Highlights of the event included:

A Jim's Bridge 8th Grade scholarship student from St. Gall School who captivated everyone when he told us how Jim's Bridge assisted him and his family.

The Principal of Visitation who spoke about the many years of scholarships and funding for after school activities by Jim's Bridge.

The Assistant Principal of ASBA told us about a student who was thrilled when she learned she could stay at the school thanks to Jim's Bridge.



The Executive Director of Erie House talked about the many children who benefit from Jim's Bridge support of their after school programs, camping and Holiday events.



You can see videos of these speeches at www.jfmmemorial.org/fundraiser

Thank you to all who joined us or donated for this successful fundraiser.



Jim's Bridge Welcomes Old St. Mary's School

In June, we had the opportunity to meet with the Principal and the Enrollment Director of Old St. Mary's School in the South Loop of Chicago.

We were very impressed with all

the school has to offer in a very diverse area of the city

As a result, we are pleased to announce Old St. Mary's as the newest addition to the schools supported by Jim's Bridge.

Future newsletters will have more information about Old St. Mary's School (OSM,) as we add three of their students to our scholarship list.



The Back to School Backpack Tradition Continues!

It was a beautiful summer morning when Jim's Bridge helped distribute fully stocked "Back to School" Backpacks to children at the Erie Neighborhood House Summer Fest in the Little Village neighborhood.

This is the seventh year that Jim's Bridge has helped to fund the backpacks for close to 700 children.

We were thrilled that our grandsons joined us this year and proud of their eagerness to give back to the community.





Volunteering at Race Events

Volunteering at races is a fun and rewarding way to help raise funds for Jim's Bridge! The race organizers make a donation to Jim's Bridge based on the number of volunteers we recruit for the event. Here are some of the races where Jim's Bridge volunteered in 2024



Corp Challenge 5-16-24



CARA Trail Chase 5-19-24



BTN Big 10K 7-13-24



Chicago Triathlon 8-25-24



CARA Ready to Run 9-22-24



Chicago Marathon 10-13-24

Jim's Bridge in Action



St. Gall School

We had a delightful time on Oct 22nd at St. Gall School. We met with seven of our scholarship students, from Grades 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8.

We chatted with each of them about how their school year is going. Then we moved on to other topics like what they will be for Halloween, decorations at our homes and their

excitement for the Haunted House that will be built for the students by the eighth-grade class.

Like all of the schools, the students were talkative and happy to meet with us. We also caught up with the school administration, one of whom will be volunteering with us at the Hot Chocolate race on Nov 3rd!



Visitation School

On Oct 8th at Visitation, it was so nice to reconnect with our scholarship students and welcome two new scholars who have joined us this year.

We were very excited and impressed to learn that one of our students is President of the Student Council and another is a competitive dancer!

We chatted about new things this year at Vis, Halloween plans and summer vacation.

Additionally, this fall, Jim's Bridge sponsored two amazing field trips at Vis. The PK through 2nd graders went to County Line Apple Orchard and the 3rd through 8th graders spent time at Brookfield Zoo.

We were pleased to hear that Jim's Bridge helped fund Dance Around the World classes and "Fight Like A Girl", a program that helps middle school girls learn non-contact boxing and build self-confidence.



Academy of St. Benedict the African

We had a fun time on Oct 1st visiting with our five scholarship students at the Academy of St. Benedict the African (ASBA).

It is wonderful that we get to meet with them year after year and see them as they grow and move on to the next grade in school.

We enjoyed talking about their favorite things at school, what they did on summer vacation and how we all enjoy vegetables straight from the garden.

Before we left we visited with the Principal and Assistant Principal.

We look forward to visiting all of the schools again.





Creative Fundraising

Running for Jim's Bridge

So, what's so tough about running the 26.2 miles in the Chicago Marathon?

Well, a lot of things. But if you are lucky like Jim's Bridge Director Maureen and you know that people have donated to Jim's Bridge to help you finish, the miles fly by. Well, most of them.

Our thanks to everyone who donated to the "Go Mo Go" fundraiser – we raised over \$3,500 for the charity! And Congrats on your marathon, Mo!



Topping 10K lbs. for the Summer Clothing Drive

The Jim's Bridge Summer Clothing FunDrive was a HUGE Success! Two deliveries were needed to get it all to Savers Thrift Stores.

All totaled, we collected 10,682 pounds of goods for the 2024 Summer Drive. That generated OVER \$2,000 for Jim's Bridge.

Our thanks to everyone who contributed to the drive and to all who helped us deliver it.

See information below on our Winter 2025 Clothing Drive.



Jim's Bridge Next Clothing Drive



Jim's Bridge is holding a clothing drive in partnership with Savers from Sunday Dec 1, 2024 until Saturday Feb 8, 2025.

That gives you plenty of time to clean out your closets and get your donations to us. More to come on Facebook and in email. Text or call 708-267-9343 to arrange a drop off or a clothing pickup.

Jim's Bridge now Accepts Zelle

Donations to Jim's Bridge just got easier!

Send to John@jfm Memorial.org

You will be emailed a letter acknowledging your donation which can be used for tax purposes.



Our Mission

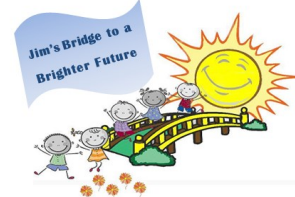
October 2, 2024 marked eleven years since we lost our dear son, brother, husband, step-dad and friend to suicide, and we will probably never understand why. Not a day goes by without remembering Jim, still loving him and wishing he was with us.

We knew from that day in 2013 that we wanted to do something positive as a tribute to him. We set up the James F. Mikulski Memorial Group, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) charity EIN 46-4519616, to honor his life by benefiting children while emphasizing wellness and helping others. We are proud that our charity, with your help, has been able to accomplish this. Without our generous donors and wonderful volunteers it would not be possible. We continue to keep operating expenses well below 10% of revenue.

Please consider a donation at www.jfm Memorial.org/donate, Zelle to john@jfm Memorial.org or mail to

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James F. Mikulski Memorial Group



www.jfm Memorial.org



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